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United Prayer
FOR
Missions Abroad

During the Week

April 5th–12th

1903

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A Week of Prayer for Missions Abroad

April 5th to 12th, 1903

THE Tenth Annual Conference of the Officers and Members of the Foreign Missions Boards in the United States and Canada, meeting in New York City in January, 1903, decided to ask all Christian people in the United States and Canada to join in a week of special prayer for the non-Christian world, for the men and women who are giving their lives to missionary work, and for the wider recognition by Christians everywhere of the duty and privilege of sharing more fully in the great task of world evangelization.

The period selected for this year, April 5th to 12th, both inclusive, is that which commemorates the Redeeming Death and Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

It will be apparent to everyone how appropriate it is to use these days for offering prayers and gifts, that the message of love revealed in the Incarnation of Our Lord, and the message of Life revealed in His Resurrection, may be fully proclaimed throughout the world for which He died.

The following suggestions for the observance of the week are respectfully offered to ministers and people; it being understood that it is the principle,

rather than the particular method which it is important to emphasize, and that the latter should be modified to meet local conditions, as may be thought best.

I. BY CONGREGATIONS

In congregations having a daily service during the appointed week, it is suggested that special prayer for missions be offered as a part of the service; and that wherever practicable mention be made each day in sermons, addresses and intercessions of one or more of the topics included in the Common Daily Prayer and the Prayer Cycle suggested on pages 5, 6, & 7 of this leaflet.

In congregations having occasional services during the appointed week this plan may be modified as the conditions require.

II. BY INDIVIDUALS

It is hoped that all persons receiving a copy of this leaflet will share in this week of common prayer for the extension of Christ's Kingdom:

(1) By following in connection with their daily private devotions the cycle on pages 6 & 7, or any adaptation of it that may seem desirable;

(2) By endeavoring to pause for a moment at noon each day of the week to offer prayer for missions and missionaries throughout the world.

III. PARLOR MEETINGS

By joining with a few friends, in the home of one of them, on one or more evenings of the week for united prayer for missions and missionaries.

Common Daily Prayer

¶ *For a realization of the need of the non-Christian world, its helplessness, its materialism, lust, and superstition; the inadequacy of its religions; its spiritual hopelessness.*

¶ *For political righteousness and stability; for religious liberty and peace.*

¶ *For missionaries, that they may be preserved in body and spirit, and may have greater access to the hearts of the people.*

¶ *For the establishment of native churches and Christian homes, and for the elevation of woman.*

¶ *For more consecration and sacrifice; for a full surrender to the Lordship of Christ; for a truer conception of the Mission of the Church.*

¶ *For the evangelization of the whole world and the establishment of the Kingdom of Christ.*

"That they might know Thee, the only
true God, and Jesus Christ whom
Thou hast sent."

Prayer Cycle

1. The Empires of Eastern Asia, Japan, China, Korea, Thibet and Siam. *For friendship and the decay of distrust; for continued progress; for openness of mind and heart on the part of Confucianist, Buddhist and Hindu toward the Gospel.*

2. Central and Western Asia, India, Afghanistan, Persia, Turkey, Arabia. *For religious liberty; for the elevation of woman; for freedom from famine; for the conversion of Mohammedans.*

3. The Continent of Africa. *For the extinction of the slave trade and the liquor traffic; for peace; for the evangelization of the Soudan, and all unreached tribes.*

4. The Countries at our doors, Mexico and Central and South America. *For the spread of purity of doctrine and of life; for the unreached Indians; for political righteousness and stability.*

5. The Islands of the Sea, the Philippines, Hawaii, Cuba, Porto Rico, the South Seas, Madagascar. *For the purification of American influence from all vice and irreligion; for confidence*

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and service; for justice and peace ; for the end of slavery and impurity, and the conquest of Christianity.

6. The Evangelization of the World. *For missionaries; for the Native Churches; for all inquirers and catechumens; for greater faith in God, for the establishment everywhere of Christian homes and the Christian Church, and the preaching of the Gospel to every creature.*

7. The Church at Home. *For ministers and people; for forgiveness for lethargy and indifference.*

8. The Church at Home. *For more prayer and more faith in God's desire to hear and answer prayer; for more love and obedience.*

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"Pray ye the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers."
"Say, Thy kingdom come."

INASMUCH as this leaflet is to be used by the Christians of many communions in our land, and for the help of such as may desire it, the following prayers are suggested:

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GOD, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the whole earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that are far off and to them that are nigh; Grant that all men everywhere may seek after thee and find thee. Bring the nations into thy fold, and add the heathen to thine inheritance. And we pray thee shortly to accomplish the number of thine elect, and to hasten thy kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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ATHER of mercies, forgive, we pray thee, our unbelief, and so enlarge our hearts and enkindle our zeal that we may fervently desire the salvation of all men, and may with ready diligence labor in the extension of thy kingdom; for his sake who gave himself for the life of the world, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth, we commend to thy fatherly care all whom thou hast called to take part in the missionary work of thy Church. Watch over them, we beseech thee, for good; defend them from all dangers both of body and soul, from the pestilence that walketh in darkness and the sickness that destroyeth at the noonday ; give thine Angels charge concerning them, and let thy Holy Spirit rule in their hearts, and prosper all their work to the glory of thy Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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O GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace ; Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord : that as there is but one Body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER is essentially active and expansive. If we pray for the attainment of an object, we shall work for it also. If we learn to say, not with the lips only, but with the heart and the understanding, "Thy Kingdom come:" if we intensify our prayers by due reflection on the vastness and variety of the work for which we pray; if we take pains to gain a detailed knowledge of some part of the whole mission field; then we shall soon speak one to another of that which burns within us. Zeal will kindle zeal, where before silence chilled it; and devotion will pass into deed.

BROOKE FOSS WESTCOTT

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I FEEL sure that, as long as we look on prayer chiefly as the means of maintaining our own Christian life, we shall not know fully what it is meant to be. But when we learn to regard it as the highest part of the work entrusted to us, the root and strength of all other work, we shall see that there is nothing that we so need to study and practice as the art of praying aright. * * * It is only when the Church gives herself up to this holy work of intercession that we can expect the power of Christ to manifest itself in her behalf. * * * With disciples full of faith in Himself, and bold in prayer to ask great things, Christ can conquer the world. "Lord, teach us to pray."

ANDREW MURRAY

IF all true believers on earth could only unite, not in repeating the words merely, but in uttering from the heart, and laying it as a daily burden on the heart, the first petition of Our Lord's Prayer, 'Thy Kingdom Come,' the nations would be shaken, and the Kingdom of God would begin to advance with mighty strides towards universal triumph.

JAMES M. THOBURN

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IN January, 1793, after hearing the account of Mr. Thomas, a medical officer just returned from India, Mr. Fuller said, "We saw there was a gold mine in India, but it seemed almost as deep as the centre of the earth. Who will venture to explore it? 'I will go down,' said Mr. Carey, 'but remember that you must hold the ropes.' We solemnly engaged to do so; nor while we live shall we desert him."

COMMITTEE UNITED PRAYER
FOR MISSIONS ABROAD
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